

Chien - Lung, Emperor of China

THE

1482 d 10

IMPERIAL EPISTLE

FROM

KIEN LONG.

EMPEROR OF CHINA,

TO

GEORGE THE THIRD,

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c. &c. &c.

IN THE YEAR 1794.

TRANSMITTED FROM HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY IN A BOX MADE OF BEAUTIFUL BLACK WOOD, CARVED CURIOUSLY AND OF GREAT VALUE, AND PRESENTED TO HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GEORGE EARL MACARTNEY OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND, K. B. AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE EMPEROR OF CHINA IN THE YEARS 1792, 1793, AND 1794.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE FROM THE
ORIGINAL CHINESE POETRY.

WITH NOTES BY VARIOUS PERSONS OF EMINENCE AND
DISTINCTION, AND BY THE TRANSLATOR.

N.B. Though the Poem has very little relation to the Embassy, yet it is thought proper to print it in the same size with the Narrative of the Embassy for the convenience of such persons as may wish to bind up together all writings which have any reference to the grand Imperial Diplomatic Mission into the East.

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IMPERIAL EDITION

KIRBY LOWE

EDITOR OF THE

GEORGIA TRIBUNE



BY THE TRANSLATOR

A PREFACE.

**RATHER LONG, BUT NOT TO BE PASSED OVER, WITHOUT THE LOSS OF SOME
PLEASANT INFORMATION.**

AS no writer ever stood in greater need of an apology than myself, I hope I shall be permitted to give a few words in explanation of my labour. I have undertaken to translate into English verse the poetry of the Emperor of China, who is stiled "The torch of the East, the true descendant of Taytsoy, and the providence of Heaven." I have studied almost every principal writer on the subject, but must except the general History of China, translated by Father Moyrac de Mailla in *Twelve volumes 4to*, which I just saw but could not obtain, and I regret it daily with all the fulness of that *desiderium* which so dear a head

as Father Moyrac de Mailla's demands. I confess also that I have received assistance from the best scholars and interpreters employed in Lord Macartney's Embassy, (though I was unfortunately deprived of the aid I hoped from the ingenious *Mr. Plumb*, stiled by way of eminence *the Interpreter*, whom I regret still more than Father Moyrac de Mailla); yet I am convinced that it is impossible to do full justice to the imperial Chinese phrases and expressions, which are not always intelligible to an European. I have therefore been under the necessity of supplying many passages from conjecture, or by the analogy of meaning; and this must be considered by any person who may have an opportunity of comparing my English with the Emperor's Chinese. Yet if the reader should be of opinion that I have sometimes totally misunderstood, and sometimes falsely conjectured the meaning of the Emperor, he will be inclined to forgive me when he considers for a moment the nature of the Chinese language. Father Du Halde will inform him, " that there was a Dictionary composed by order of the " late Emperor, and that it did not contain all the language, since it " was found necessary to add A SUPPLEMENT IN TWENTY-FOUR " VOLUMES, though the first work contained NINETY-FIVE VOLUMES, " the greatest part very thick and in a small character*." I must observe, that I was favoured only with the first *ninety-five* volumes, some of which were a little imperfect; and Sir George Staunton himself could not procure for me the *supplemental twenty-four*, though he endeavoured to oblige me with the greatest politeness. This must be my first excuse. As to *the words* themselves Father Du Halde shall give an example or two, which will be sufficient to give an idea of the

rest

rest. He says, " The word TCHU when *pronounced slowly*, signifies " *a lord or master*; if with an *even tone*, it signifies *a hog*; if pronounced " *quick*, it means *a kitchen*; if in a strong and masculine tone, it " signifies *a column*." Again; " The syllable Po, according to it's " various accents and modes of pronunciation has ELEVEN different " meanings; it signifies 1, Glass. 2, to boil. 3, to winnow rice. 4, wife " or liberal. 5, to prepare. 6, an old woman. 7, to break or cleave. " 8, inclined. 9, A very little. 10, to water. 11, a slave or captive.*" Under circumstances like these I really think it impossible, and rather unkind, not to make some allowances for my errors, as I certainly have not the opportunity of hearing the pronunciation and of conversing so frequently in Chinese as I could wish; and, I think, if even an ambassador should be found to have made a mistake or two, we may be sorry, but we cannot be much surprised.

My original is an Ode; but for various reasons I have been obliged to soften it down to the milder and more familiar form of an Epistle. Besides, a political composition requires a discussion of subjects not always lyrical in this country; and the internal œconomy of a kingdom will not easily submit to an English stanza, however varied; but this is different in the court of Pekin. If indeed the Emperor of China, like modern Western Emperors, had dilated upon his finances and given a lyrical hint to the King of Great Britain *for a Loan of SIX* or even of *FOUR MILLIONS* sterling, I certainly should have acknowledged this to be a very sublime and unusual flight in state-poetry; but he must

* Du Halde Hist of China. v. 2. p. 390. Eng. edit. 8vo. and Abbè Grosier's Account of China. v. 2. p. 382. Grosier's work is an agreeable compilation from various authors.

have sought for another translator, *as I could not have had the assurance to have brought it forwards.* If however Mr. Pitt should wish this or a similar subject to be adorned by Henry James Pye Esquire and Poet Laureat, the celebration of such a Loan will at least require two whole stanzas in the next Birth-day Ode or New Annus Mirabilis. Or if Mr. Henry James Pye should chuse to write a legitimate Pindaric, he may allot the whole of an Epode to it, beginning "*Thee the vote, the*" "*purse obeys, &c.*" and I must observe that he may, with more than poetical justice, appropriate all the *Strophes* and *Antistrophes* to the Minister himself.

I must also hint to the public, that there appears to be a dangerous intimacy and reciprocation of interest between Mr. Pitt and the Emperor of China, as appears from the last budget of taxes opened in February 1795. I allude to the new and original tax on all persons WEARING HAIR-POWDER, which, (without even considering it as the introduction of Sumptuary Laws), is meant to have a very deep effect on this kingdom*; as there is reason to think, from the great expence which will attend it, that we are by degrees to be reduced not to a French (God forbid!) but to a Chinese Province. *À la Chinoise* will be the dress of fashion among the vast majority, as the Minister intends to introduce that delight of the Chinese, *fine Black hair*, and by the assimilation of dress to prepare us for Tartarian laws and Tartarian subordination. Indeed Mr. Pitt's correspondence with all kings and
Emperors

* I very seriously hope that neither Mr. P. nor any other minister will ever suffer this tax to be *farmed*, unless he wishes to introduce *domiciliary visits* into this kingdom.

Emperors should be narrowly watched, as we now alas! by fatal experience find the Poet's words but too true of HIM, as we have long suspected,

QUI COLOR ALBUS ERAT, NUNC EST CONTRARIUS ALBO.

But to return. In order to give the reader some idea of the difficulty of translating poetically such sublime writings as the Emperor's, I beg leave to exhibit some part of the same imperial Author's "ODE IN PRAISE OF DRINKING TEA." But as it is impossible for an un-instructed European to conceive the form and solemnity which accompanied the publication of that great national poem, he must for a few moments suspend his curiosity for the work itself, while I convince him of how much greater consequence the poetry of an Emperor seems to be than his politics. I am informed by Sir William Chambers K. P. S. &c. &c. &c. in his note upon *the Discourse of CHET-QUA* of Quang-Chew-Fu Gentleman, annexed to his famous Dissertation on Oriental Gardening in 4to. page 118, second Edition, that " *The Ode in praise of drinking tea* was published by the imperial edict of KIEN LONG, " reigning Emperor of China, bearing date the twelfth day of the ninth " moon of the thirteenth year of his reign, in THIRTY-TWO *different* " *types and characters*, under the inspection of Yun-lou and Houn- " yen, *Princes* by the title of Tsin-Suang; Fou Keng, *Grandee* by the " title of Taypao; *Count*, by the title of Valiant; and *First President* " of almost all the great tribunals of the empire; whose *Deputies* were " Ak-down and Tfung-pou, *Grandees* by the title of Taytzee Chaopao; " and these *were again assisted* by Ifau, Fouki, Elquinque, Tetchi, " Mingtee, Tsoungming, Tchaugyu, Tounmin, and *about* a dozen

“ other Mandarins of rank and reputation; so that there is no doubt
 “ but the work is perfectly correct.”—This I believe is perfectly new
 in the annals of poetry to most of my readers. Now in our Europe,
 we find the reverse in the present time even in political subjects.
 Emperors, Kings, Vice-roys, Governors, Dukes, Admirals and Generals
 publish their Manifestos and Counter-Manifestos with advice or without
 advice, just as they please, and generally in a noble manner, without
 any consideration at all, like the Duke of Brunswick, Lord Hood, or
 E-rl F-tzw-ll-m. To be sure in these Manifestos mere trifles are at
 stake; such as the lives and properties, the happiness or the misery of
 millions. But in China (hear this, ye Right Honourable Statesmen,
 William Pitt and Henry Dundas!) when an Emperor’s *Ode in praise
 of drinking tea*, is to be published, Princes, Grandees, Counts, First
 Presidents of all the great tribunals, and Mandarins of high rank
 and reputation, are summoned to sanction and superintend the publica-
 tion of the important national work.

I shall make no excuse for these preliminary articles, but proceed to
 present the reader with some sublime passages from the Ode itself,
 dignified and ushered in with the solemnity which I have described, and
 as it stands in page 119 of Sir William Chambers’s Discourse, just
 mentioned. The original commences with these words, “ *Meihoa ché*
 “ *pou yao &c.*” the first verse will be quite sufficient to shew the harmonic
 power of the original; the translation is as follows. “ The colours of the
 “ Meihoa are never brilliant, yet is the flower always pleasing; in
 “ fragrance or neatness the Fo-cheou has no equal; the fruit of the
 “ pine is aromatic, it’s odour is inviting. In gratifying at once
 “ the smell, the sight, and the taste, nothing exceeds these three
 “ things;

“ things; and if at the same time you put upon a gentle fire an old pot
 “ with three legs, grown black and battered with length of service; and if,
 “ when the fire is heated to a degree that will boil a fish or redden a
 “ lobster, you pour it directly into a cup made of the earth of Yuë,
 “ upon the tender leaves of superfine tea; and if, &c. and if you then gently
 “ sip this delicious beverage, it is labouring effectually to remove the five
 “ causes of discontent which usually disturb our quiet.”—I cannot help
 observing that all other Emperors and authors would be happy to have
 all their causes of discontent limited to five, and removed effectually by
 a little tea. The imperial poet proceeds and cries out in rapture,
 “ Methinks I see the virtuous LIN-FOU bending into form with his own
 “ hands the branches of the Meihoa-chou! It was thus, say I to myself,
 “ that he relieved his mind after the fatigues of profound meditation
 “ on the most interesting subjects.” But the Emperor’s rapture is very
 short indeed, and he breaks forth or rather says, “ I skip from Lin-fou
 “ to Tchao-cheou, or to Yu-chouan, and see the first, (that is, Tchao-
 “ cheou) in the middle of a vast many tea-cups, of which he sometimes
 “ tastes one and sometimes another, thus varying incessantly his potation;
 “ while the second, (that is, Yu-chouan,) drinks with the profoundest
 “ indifference the best tea*, and scarce distinguishes it from the vilest
 “ stuff.” The Emperor then resumes his lyre, which it may be neces-
 sary to observe he never does but at night, and generally by moon light,
 “ Already

* The East India Directors, with that great prudence which distinguishes all their
 well-debated resolutions, have given positive orders to all their Supercargoes, to have
 no dealings with Yu-chouan (if alive) or any of his descendants. What would become
 of the Commutation act, (not forgetting the new act in 1795) if this Mandarin’s
 profound indifference for the best tea should gain ground in this country.

“ Already, he cries, *the rays of the moon* break through the windows
 “ of my tent, and with their lustre *brighten the few moveables* with which
 “ it is adorned.” The Emperor’s modesty is conspicuous at the close of
 this great ode, and like Pindar, he strikes us with what Lord
 Bacon calls a *virgula divina**, I mean, an useful moral sentence
 very unexpectedly. “ I find myself (cries the imperial bard) neither
 “ uneasy nor fatigued; *my stomach is empty* (the Emperor is poetical to
 “ to the last) *and I may without fear* go to rest. It is thus, *with my*
 “ *poor abilities*, I have made THESE VERSES in the little spring of the
 “ tenth moon of the year Ping-yu of my reign. KIEN LONG.”

From these extracts the reader will form some conjecture concerning
 the nature of my labour, and of the necessity of this preface to my
 translation of the following Ode (I wish to call it *Epistle*); which however
 appears to have been written with more thought and care than the
 former, though published with less pomp.

One serious observation however I must be permitted to make, which
 is this. In the severer parts of this *Epistle*, in which the Emperor
 expresses with dignified solemnity his political doctrines and opi-
 nions, his Majesty appears to me, as the father of a people should
 appear, a man able to distinguish, to mark, and to declare the virtues
 and qualities of statesmen, without the unworthy bias of a party: as a
 man labouring under strong impressions of the nature of all government
 and of the foundation upon which it is supported, without despising the
 mean or trembling at the powerful; as a man, whom neither the splen-
 dor

* De Augm. Scient. l. 8. c. 1.

dor of any thing that is great, nor the conceit of any thing that is good or specious in the constitution or the direction of an empire, can withdraw from the thought of human infirmity, of the instability of all public opinion, and of the causes, which, however mean and trifling in their origin, may overthrow and lay prostrate the most confirmed dominion.

As to the Translator's attempt, I conclude by saying, that when a *modern citizen* of Europe endeavours with reverence and loyalty, (and I profess both) to deliver the words of a King or an Emperor, he deserves indulgence and may expect commendation.

N.B.—As my translation of the Imperial Epistle has been much handed about in manuscript, I have been favoured with a variety of notes by persons of eminence and distinction. I value too much the honour of their communications, not to gratify the public with a selection at least of their remarks on the work of an Emperor now in his eighty fourth year, and who is esteemed the most learned and accomplished man in his dominions. I must add, that the following Epistle is written in a happy assemblage of the *Kou-ouen*, or classical language; of the *Ouen-chang*, or that which is used when a noble or elevated style is required; and of the *Kou-enka**, or language of the court, the people in office, and the literati; which consideration will easily account for every allusion, metaphor, or style which the Emperor has thought proper to adopt. *This translation of it* is now presented to the public, in the spirit of strong affection and loyalty to the person of GEORGE THE THIRD, and of reverence for the constitution and government of England. In the

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course

* Grosier's Account of China, v. 2. p. 387.

course of it will be found the freedom of just and liberal animadversion on public characters, and on statesmen in power and out of power, neither suggested by envy nor dictated by flattery; and the Translator of THE IMPERIAL EPISTLE is of opinion that the whole of it is composed with that simplicity and unity of meaning and of intention, which only bold or bad men can misrepresent or misunderstand.

POSTSCRIPT.

The shortest and best account of the following Epistle is extracted from the LONDON CHRONICLE July 31, 1794.—(For I cannot help observing that Mr. Anderson's account of it in his Narrative p. 154 is not only improbable but absurd). “ Lord Macartney was led to the throne, and received
 “ FROM THE EMPEROR'S HANDS A COPY OF VERSES MADE BY
 “ HIMSELF FOR HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY in a box of great value and antiquity, *made of black wood* carved very neatly.”—This is plain and satisfactory.

THE
IMPERIAL EPISTLE
FROM
KIEN LONG.
EMPEROR OF CHINA,
TO
GEORGE THE THIRD,
KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c. &c. &c.
IN 1794.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE FROM THE ORIGINAL CHINESE POETRY.

FRRIEND of the Muse, (*a*) by every muse rever'd,
In Europe honour'd and by India fear'd,

B

Around

(*a*) The institution of the Academy for painting and sculpture, the patronage of poetical and learned merit in Cowper, Beattie, the late Dr. Johnson and other writers of eminence whom it is unnecessary to mention, and the restoration of national taste for the sublime of music by his persevering and undeviating regard for Handel, are fully sufficient to entitle his present majesty George III. "The Friend of the muse".—The Emperor notices this in a future part of his Epistle.

Note by the Translator.

Around whose throne, in freedom's chosen land,
 In stern defence a guardian people stand,
 Who feel for Britain, feel their sacred cause,
 THY just prerogative and equal laws;
 Hear, BRUNSWICK, thy Imperial Brother's song,
 Firm on the base of friendship deep and strong,
 E'en in my eightieth winter fancy-free,
 I build the rhyme to Royalty and THEE.

5

10

Here nightly by the moon, (b) her quick'ning beams
 I court reclin'd and call Sidonian dreams,
 While minstrels breathe around diviner airs,
 A poet's rapture sooths a monarch's cares:
 All pomp of words my sober years decline,
 Simplicity and truth illumine my line,
 Soft as the tints Meihòà's (c) foliage spreads,
 And fragrant as the perfume Fo-sai sheds.

15

Thanks

(b) It is to be remembered, as I find observed in the Translator's preface, that the Emperor always composes at night, and generally by moon-light; see his ode in praise of drinking tea: this frequently gives the happy effect of the *chiar'-oscuro* to the imperial poetry, and particularly in his *portrait-painting*, but occasions the necessity of notes, which never should be admitted without such a necessity. The Emperor, who is always classical in his allusions, speaks of his *Sidonian dreams* in the next verse, and reminds me of Milton, P. L. b. 1.

" Nightly by the moon

" *Sidonian* virgins paid their vows and songs.

Note communicated by B-nj-m-n W-st, Esq. Pr-s-dent of the R-y-l Ac-d-my.

(c) The *Meihoa* and the *Fo-sai* are the names of two beautiful and aromatic plants in China.

Thanks to the power, whose well-fraught vessels bore
 Thy lov'd MACARTNEY to my friendly shore, 20
 Whose various talents strength and grace impart
 To blameless life and singleness of heart:
 He came; but with no prodigies on high;
 As once, beneath the frore Siberian sky,
 When sent in Britain's happier hour to prove 25
 Imperial CATHERINE's policy and love,
 Coelestial Venus mark'd th' auspicious way
 In dusky passage o'er the orb of day. (d)

When such thy ministers that round me tend,
 A willing ear to Albion's wish (e) I lend. 30
 Long has her trident aw'd the subject main,
 Nor e'er unfurl'd her swelling sails in vain,

Ne'er

(d) The Emperor's information is true. Lord Macartney, before he was raised to the peerage of Ireland (and no man is more deserving of that or of any other honour than himself) was appointed ambassador to the court of Russia in 1767, at the time when the Empress was making great preparations to observe *the Transit of Venus over the Sun*, from the frozen regions towards the pole, and on the borders of the Caspian, within her own vast empire. (see the Ann. Reg. for 1767, p. 9). At present this imperial votary of *Mars* and *Venus* seems to be employing her political astronomy in making transits rather more permanent and more formidable. The Empress is supposed to have the best and strongest-sighted telescope of any potentate in Europe. Her observatory is valuable on many accounts, but in my opinion THE BUSTS of the great orators, ancient and modern are it's principal ornament.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. C. J. F-x.

(e) The Emperor makes no detail of the transactions of the Embassy, but I understand that he granted all the privileges to the English which were consistent with

Ne'er did her voice in idle thunder speak,
 But crush'd the haughty and upheld the weak.
 By THEE inspir'd, (*f*) her fame unspotted stood, 35
 No taint of avarice and no guilt of blood;

Beneficent

with the laws of the Empire. The account of the embassy, voyage &c. will shortly be published by Sir George Staunton Bart. L.L.D. and F.R.S. his Majesty's Secretary of Embassy to the Emperor of China and Minister Plenipotentiary in the absence of the ambassador.—The E. I. company very properly make a present of the Plates, Charts, &c. that the public may be gratified at a reasonable expence. They who cannot wait for it, may procure Mr. Anderson's NARRATIVE, which I have just seen while this note was going to the press. Sir G. Staunton's work is necessary to remove the idea of the Embassy impressed by Mr. A. in strong and powerful language. Speaking of the Embassy he uses the word *we*, rather strangely, considering *his* situation: "WE ENTERED
 " PEKIN LIKE PAUPERS; WE REMAINED IN IT LIKE PRISONERS; AND
 " QUITTED IT LIKE VAGRANTS." Page 181. Surely this is rather improbable. Mr. A's work is agreeably written, but with some strokes of pleasantry at the expence of Sir G. S. and of the Embassy in general, which should have been omitted.

Note communicated by Sir Francis Baring.

(*f*) I wish to confirm the Emperor's well-founded opinion, by directing the public attention to a note in my lamented friend Mr. Gibbon's History, as I am sollicitous to recommend the sentiments of departed genius and discriminating wisdom. Mr. G. observes that "The merit of discovery has too often been
 " stained with avarice, cruelty and fanaticism; and the intercourse of nations
 " has produced the communication of disease and prejudice. *A singular exception*
 " is due to the virtue of our own times and country. *The five great voyages*
 " *successively undertaken by order of his present majesty* GEORGE III. *were inspired*
 " *by the love of science and of mankind.* The same Prince adapting his benefac-
 " tions to the different stages of society, has founded a school of painting in
 " his capital, and introduced into the islands of the south sea the vegetables and
 " animals most useful to human life." Gibb. Rom. Hist. v. 6, p. 400. Ed. 8vo.

Note communicated (con amore) by Lord Sheffield.

Beneficent and mild from pole to pole
 Commerce was taught through mercy's tides to roll,
 To pour each cultivated blessing wide,
 To give new motives to a nation's pride, 40
 And blend with artful, but harmonious, strife
 The law of int'rest with the light of life.
 Such course THOU bad'st th' immortal Sailor run,
 Who made discovery where he saw no fun;
 Contending nations own'd their common trust, (g) 45
 And France, (for then her Louis liv'd) was just:
 Now other climes and other groves among
 While loud lament is heard or plaintive song,
 To Him let China's monarch fondly turn,
 And twine the wreath round Cook's barbaric urn. 50

While such thy views, while such thy righteous aim,
 Her proud pre-eminence shall Albion claim,
 And meaner jealousies and tricks of state
 Yield to whate'er is good, whate'er is great.

C

But

(g) During the American war, France and the other powers, with whom we were engaged, gave orders to all their naval commanders to respect the flag of CAPTAIN COOK, and to give him any assistance he might want, in whatever latitudes he should be found. It is hardly necessary to observe that this great man, now "ever mourned and ever honoured," perished on the 14th of Feb. 1779, by the hands of savages, at Owyhee, one of the Sandwich Islands.

Note communicated (con amore) by Sir J-f-ph B-nks, Bart. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

But oh, what phrase of love may best besit,
 How most may China's sovereign grace thy PITT?
 Arch-chemic minister! his prime decree
 Refresh'd thy land with Commutation-Tea; (*h*)
 Wholesome and pure the beverage cheers the fight,
 By strange filtration thro' earth, air and light. (*i*)
 Great minister! whose fame may well engage
 The prose of Lauderdale (*k*) and all his rage;

55

60

And

(*h*) They who are curious (as all people should be) about the History of *Tea*, are referred to Kæmpfer's Hist. of Japan, fol. vol. 2. append. p. 1 to p. 20.—to Osbeck's voyage to China in 1751, vol. 1, p. 246 to 253.—Le Comte's Journey to China in 1685, p. 227 to 230.—Du Halde Hist. v. 4. p. 21 to 28. ed. 8vo. Engl.—Dr. Lettsom's Hist. of Tea, 4to in 1772.—And Grosier's Account, vol. 1. p. 463 to 484.

Note communicated by Mr. Tw-n-ng and a Committee of Teamen, highly Sou-chonged.

(*i*) *We* admire the minister's system of promoting political vegetation by natural analogy; for as no vegetation whatsoever can be carried on without ground, air, and the light of heaven, he thought with the greatest sagacity that the circulation of this fluid tax would be best kept up by making it pass *through windows*, which are at once the conveyances of air and light.

Note communicated and produced by the joint labour and thought of Sir J-hn S-ncl-r, Pr-f-dent, and of A-th-r Y-ng Esq. S-cr-tary to the new B-rd of Agr-c-lture.

(*k*) Neither Sir G-rge St-nt-n, nor myself (whose knowledge of Chinese no reader can doubt) could for a long time decypher the name alluded to by the Emperor. The first letter L. was plain enough, and the measure of the Chinese verse required three syllables; we therefore at last determined that *by a happy anticipation*, the Emperor meant the Earl of LAUDERDALE, who, though he certainly has been *used to talk a great deal*, does not appear by the style of his late

And yet untouch'd by HIM, with Roman claim

Who left the shadow of a mighty name. (l)

See how *the sick'ning stars* in P-rtl-nd's train

65

Fade one by one from Opposition's plain,

As forth his chosen charms th' Enchanter flings,

Ribbands, and vice-roys, earls, and garter'd strings.

Oh, that my longing eye PITT's form might greet,

Triumphant borne through Pekin's crowded street,

70

In boots of filk (m) and fatten's trailing length,

CHOULAH supreme! (n) my kingdom's grace and strength:

Around his waist I'd bind to solemn view

The scarf of yellow's proud imperial hue, (o)

Where

late LETTERS TO THE PEERS OF SCOTLAND *ever to have written a page* before that publication.

Note by the Translator.

(l) Junius.—There is a person now living, emphatically stiled on the highest authority, THE MAN WITH THE PEN.

Stat magni nominis umbra.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W. G. H-m-lt-n, M. P.

(m) "People of condition never go abroad *but in boots*, which are generally of *fatten or other filk*." Grosier. Vol. 2. p. 296.

(n) Choulah, is the Chinese word for *Prime Minister*.—"The whole number of mandarins appointed by the Emperor for the administration of the affairs of all the provinces amounts to 8,965. These are all *Great Mandarins*." Grosier, vol. 1. 371. Mr. Pitt's ambition will never rest in the Premier's office, in such a little island as Great Britain, after such an offer from the Emperor of becoming, Chief of the Chief.

Note communicated by his Gr-cc the D-ke of B-df-rd; (en attendant.)

(o) The imperial family alone wear yellow, and such mandarins to whom the Emperor

Where broider'd bold thy lion's golden might
 With China's five-claw'd dragon (*p*) should unite;
 Rubies (*q*) should on his cap transparent glow,
 And peacocks plumes adown his vesture flow:
 Loungers with lengthen'd nails (*r*) should march before,
 And to the nine add one black whisker more.
 Then should the bust of virtuous Lin-fou (*s*) shine,
 Lin-fou, who lives in my immortal line:

75

80

Next

Emperor grants the honour of the *yellow scarf*. See Du Halde, Grosier and Bell.
 —How different in England or rather how absurd; we talk of *yellow admirals*.

Note by Adm-l B-rt-n.

(*p*) The Emperor wore a long tunic of yellow silk, interwoven with figures of
 “golden dragons with five claws; which device no person is allowed to bear *except*
 “*the imperial family*.” Bell's Travels 8vo. v. 2. p. 12.—We see THE EMPEROR
 considers Mr. Pitt as one of his family.

Note by the Rt. Hon. C. J. F-x.

(*q*) The distinction of mandarins of the highest order is a red transparent jewel
 on the top of the cap, and peacocks feathers trailing down behind it. Mr. Bell
 explains this: “Most of the ministers of state (he says) were *dressed very plain*,
 “having *nothing like ornaments about them*; a few only had large rubies,
 “sapphires and emeralds. These precious stones are cut into the shape of pears,
 “through which a hole is drilled, to fix them on the top of their bonnets.”
 Bell's Travels, v. 2. p. 13.

(*r*) All the men of fashion or beaux in China wear *nine or more whiskers* and all
 the gentlemen have long nails, *to shew that they are idle*. Perhaps L-rd W-ll-m
 G-rd-n and other Loungers and Rangers may introduce this fashion in London,
 or when they visit Mr. Pitt at his levees.

*Note communicated by the Rev. Mr. N-wm-n Vicar of Bond-street assisted
 by some other learned and laborious Divines.*

(*s*) Lin-fou is the *virtuous tea-drinker*, mentioned by the Emperor in his ode in
 praise

Next in high portraiture or bold relief
 Should gleam THE IMAGE of each British chief,
 Of all who swell the sails or guide the helm, 85
 Hope of thy land or glories of thy realm; (t)
 While trophies of the wise, the just, the brave,
 In orient hues and banner'd pomp should wave.

FIRST o'er *thy* ocean with terrific frown,
 Victorious grac'd with England's rostral crown, 90
 The scourge of vaunting France, unshaken HOWE,
 With Fabian firmness and unruffled brow.
 Then be the form of great CORNWALLIS (v) seen,
 Sedate, experienc'd, valiant, and serene;

D

Depicted

praise of drinking tea; and is introduced here with great propriety before the palanquin of the imperial Pitt.

(t) It is by no means true, that *all* the personages whose portraits or images are to be displayed before the palanquin, in THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY OF MR. PITT INTO THE COURT OF PEKIN, are either the *hope* or the *glory* of England. The Emperor speaks in general.

(v) In the second verse of this Epistle the Emperor represents his present Majesty as "feared by India." When I read that passage I conjectured, and my opinion is here confirmed, that he alluded to the victories obtained over Tippoo Saib by the MARQUIS CORNWALLIS and his gallant army, and to the accession of territory to the crown of Great Britain secured by something better than bonds and parchments. To Marquis Cornwallis, great alike for ability and integrity of conduct in war and peace, while dignified by the delegated supremacy in India, I must say,

Sanctus

Depicted in the tablet stand below 95
 The filial hostage (v) and imperial foe:
 Beyond Myfore he thunder'd: the dread sound
 Appall'd, and circumscrib'd the tyrant's bound.
 Next, with sad registers of treasur'd lore,
 Financial scrolls and many an Indian crore, 100
 Burnish'd in breathing ministerial brags,
 View him, who knows alone no change, D-ND-S;
 To whom, in policy's wild ocean beat,
 The *Strophad* (u) isles afford a soft retreat.
 He too, the motley wonder of the time, 105
 Moulded in nature's and in fancy's prime,
 Form'd like Lucullus, (w) for the wordy war,
 To shake the stage, the senate, or the bar:

Whose

Sanctus haberi,
 Justitiæque tenax dictis factisque mereris:
 AGNOSCO PROCEREM!

*Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. H—y D-nd-s, in the name of himself and of all
 the commissioners of the Ind. B-rd, Attorneys General to the E. I. Company according
 to the act.—Or rather in the name of all the people of Great Britain and Ireland.*

(v) Alluding to the sons of Tippoo Saib, who were sent as hostages to Lord Cornwallis for the performance of the treaty in 1792.

(u) *Strophades Graio stant nomine dictæ,
 Insulæ Ionio in magno, quos dira Celæno
 Harpyiaque colunt. Æn. 3. 210.*

(w) The Roman Lucullus *made himself* a General by study, and Mr. Sh-r-d-n *made himself* an Orator, by application to the art. This observation does not hold concerning any other of his mental accomplishments.

Whose wit a people's plaudits could secure
 For gamesters, rakes, and brothellers impure, 110
 Could tear from youth the dread of public shame,
 Drive from their lips e'en virtue's very name,
 And train an easy nation to allow
 A public bankrupt with a graceful bow; (x)
 A stageman P-rtl-nd never would respect, 115
 But with Athenian (y) dignity reject;
 No *cabinet* for SH-R-D-N, no trust,
 While England in her statesmen dares be just.
 Then HE, who kindled at a holier flame
 His wit, his learning, and superior fame; 120
 Onward with more than Tully's force he prest;
 With more than all, but Tully's judgment, blest;
 High

(x) *The School for Scandal* is the text, and every Tutor and every tradesman know where to look for the commentary.

Note communicated by W-ll-m W-lb-rf-rce Esq. M.P.

(y) The Athenians by an express law prohibited any member of the great council of the Areopagus from having any concern in a theatre, or from writing any play or comedy upon pain of expulsion. Plutarch informs us of this in his treatise on the Glory of the Athenians: Την Κωμωδοποιαν ουτως ασεμνον ηγγεντο και φορτικον, ωστε νομος ην μηδενα ποιειν κωμωδιας Αρειοπαγιτην. Plutarch, vol. 2. p. 348. ed. Xyland.

Note communicated by the Rev. Dr. P-rr, and not without much reluctance; but there was no resisting the pleasure of a little bit of Greek.

High truth and large discourse with wisdom fraught,
Not better heard in Tusculum, he taught :

In every realm of every science found,
Plain are his steps in all—but Græcian ground.

125

A temple (z) last he rais'd by art divine,
And plac'd his Cæsar in the central shrine;
High priest himself, but not with olive crown'd,
His forehead was with martial fillets bound;

130

Within some feeble pillars here and there,
And idle ornaments for want of care,
But marble still the column and the dome,
Wrought from those quarries which he found at home;
Immortal, though unfinish'd, is the work :

135

Why name the architect? (a) who knows not BURKE?

Next

(z) Templum de marmore ponam;
In medio mihi Cæsar erit, templumq. tenebit.

Virg. Georg. l. 3.

The Emperor considers Mr. Burke's three treatises on French affairs, entitled, "Reflections on the Revolution in France; a Letter to a member of the National Assembly, and his Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs," under the allegory of a Temple. His majesty seems not to be deterred by that *injuria virtutum*, by which phrase Tacitus would seem to proscribe the particular mention of a great man's works.

(a) I certainly am obliged to the Emperor for his opinion on my compositions on the French Revolution, on which *they are now writing a dreadful commentary*. As I am on the subject I must observe, that I never remember to have seen the French Convention described in the words of Milton. He indeed knew what a

Long

Next W-ndh-m, (b) fearless thund'ring from his car,
 Pitt's new Tyrtæus, breathes the blast of war;
 With parts a splendid station to adorn,
 He braves the taunt of democratic scorn, 140
 With eloquence and strength, his country's friend,
 To think and act, and what he thinks, defend.

Then veering L-ghb-r-gh, whose unquiet mind
 Found late that joy ambition scarce (c) can find:

He
 Long Parliament was; but his overbearing genius seems to have portrayed a
 French Convention, when he described

A shape,
If shape it may be call'd, that shape has none;
Or substance may be call'd that shadow seems,
For both seems either: black it stands as night,
Fierce as ten furies, terrible as hell,
And shakes a dreadful dart: what seems it's head,
The likeness of a kingly crown has on;
Created thing nought values it, nor shuns. P. L. b. 2.

For my own part, I distrust them all: I hate alike French policy, French professions, French impiety, French vaunting, French versatility, French falshood, French cruelty. I am equally disposed to guard against their Republican Volcano, whether belching forth the fiery lava of *Terror*, or smouldering with the more dangerous smoak of *Moderation*.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. Edm-nd Burke.

(b) The Rt. Hon. W-m W-ndh-m, Secr-ry at W-r.

(c) L-rd L-ghb-r-gh, promoted to the office of the L-rd H-gh Ch-nc-llor of the kingdom between sixty and seventy years of age, the great object to which all his wishes and labours had been directed, and which he would have accepted on any terms and at any time.

Est

He came, yet not in Latium to repose, 145
 But burn in conflict with a nation's foes,
 Yet still, though thron'd in Th-rl-w's rightful place,
 His words want weight which never wanted grace.

Then the grave Gr-nv-lle, with a patriot's end
 Who dar'd to sink the rival in the friend; (d) 150
 Content could leave the Commons and the Chair
 To breathe with lords a more convenient air.
 There too, upon Hibernia's fainted green,
 Should B-ck-ngh-m, without his boots, (e) be seen;

Mark

Eft hic, eft animus *lucis* contemptor, et iftum
 Qui *vitâ* bene credat emi, quo tendit, honorem.

N.B. The words *lucis* and *vita* are used figuratively.

Note communicated by L-rd Th-rl-w; con amore.

(d) It should be mentioned to the honour of L-rd Gr-nv-lle, that he accepted a peerage at the very time when he was the only man on Mr. P-tt's side of the House who could have contested the palm of eloquence with him, or indeed could have succeeded him as Minister, in case of any of those little *amantium iræ* which will sometimes happen among the best regulated statesmen.

Note communicated (after profound meditation) by G-rge R-se Esq. See. to the Tr-ry.

(e) The present M-rq-s of B-ck-ngh-m, then L-rd T-mple, was formerly Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Du Halde has explained the Emperor's pleasant allusion in substance thus: If a *viceroi* in China has executed his office with equity and the love of his subjects, (the word *subjects* is too strong) many particular honours are paid him. One of the most pleasant is this: the citizens, some of whom weep or pretend to do so, meet him at a short distance from the city, and *pull off his old boots* and present him *with new ones*: those first taken off are *preserved in a cage over the gate of the City*." Du Halde Hist. ed. 8vo. v. 2. p. 178, 179. Now though the Emperor observes that the loving citizens of Dublin met upon
 St.

Mark how the citizens suspend in state 155
His leathern trophies on the Castle gate.

Then He, whom e'en fraternal worth could fail,
The plume-pluckt Ch-th-m with a raven's tail; (f)
And garter'd Richmond, whose unblason'd shield (g).
Proves honour to œconomy should yield. 160

Fresh

St. Stephen's, or in the imperial words, on *the sainted green*, and most certainly *pulled off my L-rd M-rq-s's old boots*, it does not appear that they presented him *with a new pair*. Whether they never desired to see him *accoutred* among them *again* or whatever was the cause, all that the loving citizens could be prevailed upon to say, was, "*Off with his boots, so much for B-ck-ngh-m.*"

Note communicated (con amore) by the Rt. Hon. C. J. F-x.

(f) The Emperor is again local in his allusions. The Chinese mode is this: when a Mandarin is removed from a very important station to one of less consequence in the government, the peacocks feathers depending from his cap are taken out, and crows feathers are substituted.

*Note communicated (con amore also) by the Rt. Hon. The E-rl Sp-x-r
F-rst L-rd of the Adm-y.*

(g) It is difficult to understand the whole of the Emperor's meaning, but I think my office enables me at least to offer a conjecture. When the late repairs were made in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, with an exemplary liberality, every Knight of the Garter contributed a sum towards it, and his arms were blasoned on the window over his banner. The D. of R-chm-nd alone thought his fame sufficient *without the honour and expence of the sacred glass*, and declined them. The glass remains unornamented to this hour.

Note communicated by the Rt. Rev. The D--n of W-ndf-r.

Fresh from Hermippus and his doctrine brisk,
 In saffron sock old C-rd-g-n (h) should frisk;
 With D-rset, prompt each loose-zon'd dame to blest;
 And D-rby, graceful in his walking-dress:
 And there, insatiate yet with folly's sport, 165
 That polish'd fin-worn fragment of the court,
 The shade of Q-nsb'ry should with Cl-rm-nt meet,
 Ogling and hobbling down St. James's street:
 But mark the courteous philanthropic form
 Of LEEDS, sagacious of each brooding storm; 170
 Of wit well-manner'd, skill'd at once to please,
Resign with candour and dissent with ease;
 Though wary, bold and manly is his part,
 And England's honour ever at his heart.
 Then should THY sacred Orators appear; 175
 H-rsl-y in front, while W-tf-n in the rear
 The chemic dew of peace around him flings,
 A pluvial prelate, (i) from his lawny wings:

And

(h) C-rd-g-n.—“No; *che magò non è questo*;
 Egli è un musico, per Bacco.”

Quotation from a favourite opera, communicated singing (rather of the loudest)
by the E-rl of G-llow-y.

(i) There is a peculiar propriety, as well as a generosity of spirit, in the
 Emperor's allusion to the ornament of *the Pluvial Jupiter* on the pillar of his
 Roman Brother Antoninus; as it is well known that Pope Sixtus removed the
 colossal

And mitred N-th, whose sad unworthy tale
Is heard in W-nch-ft-r's opprobrious vale; (k)

180

F

Forced

colossal statue of the Emperor Antoninus from the top of it, and placed the figure of St. Paul in it's room. B-sh-p W-tf-n is esteemed a striking likeness of St. Paul, and certainly would wish to be exalted on such a column as the Antonine, episcopal or imperial.

Note communicated by L-rd Th-rl-w.

(k) The Translator has improperly rendered the Emperor's original Chinese word *Too-paa-josh*, a vale, which my researches in that language enable me to interpret a *sacred eminence*, or *hill* or *temple*. He is certainly wrong, and the Emperor was right.—My duty *in the long absence* of my B-sh-p *on the Continent*, (which the Emperor cannot mark in too strong terms *at such a time and for such a cause*) requires a few observations from me. It is notorious to this whole kingdom that the ministry, from the best motives of mercy, humanity and toleration, originally fitted up the K's House at W-nch-ft-r as an *asylum* for the Emigrant Priests. It is as notorious, that it is now something more than an asylum; it is a sacred college; it is THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE CATHOLIC CAUSE in this country, a *seminary* where NEAR ONE THOUSAND ROMISH PRIESTS are publicly maintained, where ordinations, conversions, instructions, and all the business of the dark divan are held, and which water all their schools old and new. I should think the following words framed for the occasion, if Milton had not written them:

“ Not content

“ With their audacious neighbourhood; they build

“ THEIR TEMPLE, *right against the temple of God,*

“ ON THE OPPROBRIOUS HILL.”

P. L. b. 1.

See Milton's Account of *Moloch* at large.

It is a public cause of consideration: we know what the Emperor did with the Jesuit Missionaries in China, when they became troublesome. They should, if possible, be sent out of our country; if that cannot yet be, they should be *instantly dispersed*. History informs us *what Ulysses was*; it is the part of government to guard against what *he may again be*; and to see that *Troy may stand and the citadel of Priam and of Protestantism may remain*. I speak for the public; and I speak with the expectation of being publicly heard.

Note communicated (ex officio) by the Rev. N-wt-n O-le D.D. D-n of W-nch-ft-r.

Forced by uxorious squandering, by his wife,
 From all the hallowed dignities of life,
 His high-paid duties, and his sacred home,
 Exiled in lewd Italian climes to roam;
 Now while thy Sion in desponding strain
 Invokes the Fathers from her inmost fane;
 Why slumbers thy Arch-Pontiff? on that shore
 Who from embodied dulness rouses M-re?
 And, while the pillars of thy temples bow,
 Why circles not the mitre PALEY's(l) brow?

185

190

Next see the learned P-rr, in judgment weak,
 Who first lampoon'd a minister in greek;
 By merit rais'd above his *buff* compeers
 In shag and title, " Master of the Bears;" (m)

He

(l) William Paley D.D. Archdeacon of Carlisle; the most perspicuous, best-informed, and convincing writer *on the proofs* of the Christian religion among the modern divines.

*Note communicated (con amore) by the Hon. and Rev. Sh-te B-rr-ngt-n,
 B-sh-p of D-rh-m.*

(m) It was sometime before *we* could decypher the latter part of this passage about Dr. P. the first part evidently relates to the Bellendenian Greek and Latin preface, the translation of which into Chinese cost the D-ke of P-rtl-nd above five hundred pounds. But *we* now find the latter part also to be truly imperial. In the Greek Anecdota of Procopius, b. 9. (*we* read it in English) ¹⁰²¹ or the Secret History of the Court of Constantinople in the reign of Justinian, *we* find that there were two factions in the state, the *Green* and the *Blue*. The *dissolute* youth of Constantinople adopted the *blue livery of disorder*, and the bonds of society were frequently relaxed and sometimes broken. At that time *wild beasts of different*

He marks the den, whence 'mid the bestial (n) herds 195
 THE UNFROCK'D GRAMMARIAN hurls his red-winged words;
 And mourns, transfix'd by the prelatie (o) spear,
 Expiring Priestley on his western bier.

He too whose light, in the politic gloom
 By Junius(p) quench'd, the muses would relume; 200
 For him they call'd o'er Granta to display
 Her fasces—but with ineffectual sway:

And

different species were maintained by the blue (some MSS. have it and buff) faction IN THE CENTER OF THE METROPOLIS, and one of the most honourable appointments was that of "The Master of the Bears."—How learned is the Emperor in his allusions! with what propriety does he conduct his applications!

Note by the joint labour and ability of Dr. C-mbe, Editor of a splendid and rather silly edition of Horace, and of Mr. Alderman C-rt-s Brother to the Rev. Mr. C-rt-s: Arcades ambo.

(n) *Herds.*—This word signifies, says Dr. Johnson, "a number of beasts together" and it is peculiarly applied to *black cattle.*" Dr. J's. Dictionary. The Emperor evidently alludes to his *ci-devant Reverence*, H-rne T—ke Esq. and his Επεα Πτεροεντα, or as he had better translated the phrase (as all writers had better do when they quote Greek) *Winged Words* or *Diversions of Purley.*

N.B. Feathers and pens may be dipt in blood as well as ink.

Note communicated by Mr. Serjeant Ad-r.

(o) Bishop Horsley: *Æacidæ similis Vulcaniaque arma capeffens.*

(p) To attempt to delineate the character of the D-ke of Gr-ft-n, (Ch-nc-ll-r of C-mbr-dge) after Junius, would be the presumption of a Sculptor to complete the *Torso* of Michael Angelo. The Emperor contents himself with a reference.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W. G. H-m-lt-n M.P.

And Malagrida, (*p*) with his wily leer,
Sense that misleads, but words that charm the ear.

Then B-df-rd, late by public views inspir'd, 205
Cool at New-market, nor at hazard fir'd;

Oeconomy the order of his day,
In lease, in love, in building, or in play:
Reversed see now the youthful statesman start,
Splendor and greatness beating at his heart, 210
Full to the goal he pants with generous flame,
And all the ancient honours of his name (*q*)

Next feeble P-rtl-nd, whom Pitt called to share
A forced alliance and distracted care:
F-tzw-ll-m too!—but fate conceals the page: 215

Hibernian policy and Romish rage,
Hot from the hell of Loyola, *may* rise
With discord starting to unmeasur'd size,
Struck with unhallow'd phrenzy to divide
A sister land from Britain's guardian side: 220

Pause

(*p*) The M-rq-s of L-nfd-n. See the Lettres Provinciales.

(*q*) The name of R-ff-l is great; but the Emperor seems to give the young D-ke too much credit for his exertions; however any young man of rank and property who *wakes* to a sense of his duty or of his ability should be reminded of the steed in Homer's Iliad, b. 6, v. 506.—There is a doctrine in politics *exoteric* as well as *esoteric*.

*Note communicated by L-rd M-nd-p ci-devant W-lb-re Ell-s M.P. the Nestor of
either house of Parliament.*

Pause while ye may, yet friendly chiefs! the care,
The cause, the blood are ONE: forbear, forbear. (r)

In Anglo-Ruffic bronze should F-x come forth;
I'd spare the blushes of degraded (s) worth:

G

Oh

(r) The Emperor in these lines seems to make a delicate allusion to one of the most finished passages of consummate art in the *Æneid*:

*Illæ autem, paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis
Concordes animæ, dum nunc et nocte premuntur;
Heu quantum inter se bellum, si lumina vitæ
Attigerint, quantas acies stragemq. movebunt!
Ne, Pueri, ne tanta animis assuescite bella,
Neu patriæ validas in viscera vertite vires:
Tuque prior, tu parce, genus qui ducis Olympo:
Projice tela manu sanguis meus.*

Æn. 6.

The words are figurative: the *dum nunc et nocte premuntur* are evidently expressions which denote the D. of P. and E-rl F-tzw-ll-m, or any other Dukes or Earls, when in opposition, which generally has a tendency to create the *concordes animæ paribus in armis*. This is confirmed by what follows, *si lumina vitæ attigerint*, which can have no other meaning than this; if ever they should make part of the ministry: the *lumina vitæ*, the *auræi simplicis ignis*, the *pabulum* or nutriment of life can be found in no other region. The *tu prior, tu parce*, is not so clear, but I should not refer it to E-rl F-tz-w-ll-m: weapons may however be forced from hands which use them inconsiderately. The *bellum, acies* and *stragem* are a little prophetic of Ireland: but I trust England will avert it, by that tender address—*Projice tela manu, SANGUIS MEUS!*

Note communicated by E-rl M-nsf-ld ci-devant L-rd St-rm-nt, one of the best informed and best-read scholars in Europe in the Translator's opinion.

N.B. They who are not so poetical as L-rd M-nsf-ld may think the Emperor's Chinese *Second sight* as good as the Scotch.—Additional note by J-mes M-rtin, Esq. M.P. a near relation of Mr. Sheridan's Governor of Tilbury Fort.

(s) It is impossible to ascertain the peculiar degradation of this great Orator and statesman (for such he is and ever will be esteemed) to which the Emperor alludes:

Oh had he ever to himself been true, 225
 Nor chang'd the pristine patriot for the new,
 Discretion had repressed Burke's headlong (t) rage,
 And England wanted one immortal page.

Next disappointed Th-rl-w's scowling mien;
 Happy—had Pepper Arden (v) never been; 230
 Him shall the wool-sack, him the Chancery mourn,
 And Th-rl-w, Th-rl-w every bench return.

With

alludes: whether to that degradation arising from the honour which the Empress of Russia conferred on him, or from the p-nf-n which he enjoys from private benevolence, equally disgraceful to the subscribers and to himself.

*Note communicated by G-rge R-se Esq. M.P. Sec-ry of the Tr-ry, from a MS.
 by the Rt. Hon. W---m P-tt, &c. &c. &c. &c.*

(t) The Emperor, always just, admires Mr. B. yet can see and censure his defects. But as to his eloquence *taken upon the whole*, to him alone of our English Orators can the following words belong. “ *En Ille, qui saxa devolvit et pontem indignatur, et ripas sibi facit; multus et torrens judicem vel nitentem contra fert, cogitq. ire qua rapit; hic iram, hic misericordiam inspirat; hic defunctos excitat; apud hunc et Patria ipsa exclamat; hic deos ipsos in congressum prope suum sermonemq. deducit.*”

Quintil. L. 12. c. 10.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W-ll-m W-ndh-m, M. P. &c. &c.

(v) The famous contest between Mr. P. and the ci-devant Chancellor Th-rl-w, for Pepper Arden, always reminded me of the dispute between Agamemnon and Achilles for the beautiful Brisèis.

Note communicated by J s-ph J-k-ll, Esq. M.P. and author of many other pretty little Jokes—principally on Mr. Pitt: but Nunquam animam talem dextrâ hâc &c.

With candid Scott, (*u*). Macdonald (*x*) should be seen,
 Attentive, polished, liberal, serene;
 And angry K-n-on, from state-troubles turn'd, (*y*)
 Just, and in all, but graceful learning, learn'd.

235

Then the Bar-pleader, whom mobs call divine,
 Known by the symbols of I, ME, and MINE : (*z*).

With

(*u*) Sir John Scott, Attorney General; from whom proceeded whatever is honourable and of good report in principle and practice and with great ability, at the late State-trials in 1794 (particularly in Mr. Horne Tooke's) which trial, from the conduct of it, I should rather call a *legal, judicial, and criminal conversazione round the table at the Old Bailey*. When Sir John Scott made his reply to Mr. Tooke's Advocate Mr. Erskine, I could not help observing to my friend who sat next to me; "*Cum illa dicendi vitiosa jactatio inter plaufores suos detonuit; refurgit VERÆ VIRTUTIS FORTIOR FAMA.*" Quint. L. 12. c. 9.

Note by the Translator.

(*x*) Sir A. Macdonald, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, late Attorney General.

(*y*) A L-rd Ch-f J-stice of the K. B. who gives himself up to his legal profession and turns from politics, must at all times be a valuable man, and particularly so at present.—There are persons who entertain some doubt of the propriety of the opinion anciently delivered of the *Orator* or, as we construe the word, the Barrister or Pleader by profession, yet we believe it strictly true with a few rare exceptions. "*Multi erant præterea præclari in philosophia et nobiles, a quibus omnibus una pene repelli voce Oratorem A GUBERNACULIS CIVI-*" TATUM, ac tantum in judicia et conciunculas, tanquam in aliquod pistrinum, "*detrudi et compingi videbam.*"

De Oratore L. 1.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke and the Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox.—L-rds Th-rl-w and L-ghb-r-gh dissent.

(*z*) The Emperor means ME, by G—: he affects to insinuate that my eloquence is confined to the bar; and never can have the least effect in the senate.

With the boy-candidates for public praise,
 The Wh-tbr-ds, C-nnings, L-mbtons, Jenkys, Gr-ys, (a) 240
 All, from the promise of whose rising ray
 England expects a brighter, steadier day. (b)

But

Senate. Next to myself however, I think Cicero the best Orator: *no man ever spoke so well of himself*. I admire that perpetual ornament of his unblushing phraseology, the *Ut ad ME revertar*: though his *discovery of Cataline's plot* and his PLEADINGS AGAINST THAT CONSPIRACY are not much to his honour.

Note communicated by the Hon. T. Ersk-ne.

N.B. *Qui actoris captat elegantiam, perdit viri boni et gravis auctoritatem.*

Quintil.

Additional note communicated by the sober and steady Counsellors B-rcr-ft and M-nsf-ld.

(a) I cannot help observing to these and all other young Gentlemen, that the Emperor seems to think that something more is requisite to form an efficient statesman, than looking fierce and threatening a minister or an ex-minister, and talking big, loud and long. *Mere talking in the house* will scarce raise a man to be a lord of the Admiralty. As to *Orators*, (as Sir Thomas Smith formerly observed of Gentlemen) *they be made good cheap in this kingdom*. All these young Gentlemen, and some others, who are certainly very ingenious, forget the observation of Tacitus, of which I remind them for their advantage: "*Pessimum inimicorum genus laudantes*." Mr. C-nn-ng, and Mr. J-nk-nf-n have suffered the most by not attending to it. The latter young Gentleman Mr. J. in particular should only have spoken *once*.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W. G. H-m-lt-n M.P.

I should have omitted this note but for the hints it offers, added to the respect I entertain for every *morceau*, however small, from Mr. H-m-lt-n's pen.

(b) In some future editions of this work of the Emperor, his translator will probably insert some additional *portraits* (now purposely deferred) drawn by His Majesty for the information and pleasure of posterity, and which will complete what may even now be termed THE IMPERIAL GALLERY. If however the translator should not be again favoured with a sight of the Emperor's original Chinese, the public may be assured he will give them no pretended originals.

But last, in regal grandeur once erect,
 Now in wan splendor and with eyes deject,
 HASTINGS, that *great, that injur'd*, dubious name, 245
The glory of thy India, or the shame;
 Through truth, through lies, through eloquence, through pride,
 Borne-down in Burke's unnavigable tide.
 How fades the laurel on that haughty brow
 Jove's thunder spar'd! who made the nations bow, 250
 While in his grasp, by fame and honour graced,
 Britain thy delegated sceptre placed:
 State-victim now, deluded while secure,
 Fleshed for the altar and for P-tt (*b*) mature;
 Though vers'd in every wile, he learn'd too late 255
 That love in ministers is secret hate :

H

For

(*b*) Shakespeare said of Cardinal Wolsey:

" Double both in his words and in his meaning;
 His own opinion is his law; he never is,
 But when he means to ruin, pitiful;
 His promises are, as he now is, mighty;
 But his performance, as he soon will be, nothing."

Quotation communicated by R. B. Sh-r-d n Esq. with great complacency; to whom the whole history of the Impeachment, and its secret as well as public motives are well known.

Minuti

Semper et infirmi est animi exiguique voluptas
 ULTIO.

For HIM, thus humbled in Impeachment's weeds,
To tardy justice England bends and pleads. (b)

While thus they pass, my Mandarins should bend,
And to my throne PITT's palanquin attend; 260
Trumpets of Outong-chu (c) his praise unfold,
And steely crescents(d) gleam in semblance bold;
With repercussive notes from impulse strong
Air thunders, rolls the drum, and groans the (e) Gong;
Flambeaux of odorous wood, and lanterns (f) bright 265
In eastern prodigality of light;

The

(b) While these lines were printing (as I should believe) the Lords publicly pronounced the ACQUITTAL OF MR. HASTINGS in the chamber of Parliament, after a trial of *Seven years and three months*, on St. George's day, the 23d. of April 1795. I shall make no remarks, but in the words of Shakespeare;

" ON THESE CHARGES

" CRY, GOD FOR HASTINGS, ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE!"

Note communicated (maestoso con brio) by Lord Th-r-z-zo.

(c) " Drummers and Trumpeters march before the Emperor (blowing) with their
" trumpets, which are three feet long, and made of a wood called *Outong-chu*,
" and ornamented with rings of gold." Grosier, v. 2. p. 330.

(d) " Behind these march a hundred soldiers armed with halberts, the points
" of which terminate *in a crescent*; with mace-bearers &c." Gros. v. 2. p. 331.

(e) The Gong is an instrument of a circular form made of brass, which the Chinese strike with a large wooden mallet covered with leather; the sound is heard to a great distance.

(f) " Four hundred large lanterns of elegant workmanship next make their
" appearance, borne by the same number of men; and four hundred flambeaux,
" made of a kind of wood which burns long and diffuses a great light." Gros.
as above.—N.B. For the account of the famous *Feast of Lanterns* throughout the
empire of China, see Grosier v. 2. p. 323.

The clustered radiance of the fields above,
 And pictured planets (g) in their orders move,
 Seraphic emblems! and in azure car

Thy Herschel pointing to his Georgian Star:

270

For PITT the portals of the south (h) expand,

And on *my* marble (i) HE alone should stand,

While from the mountain of the agate seal (k)

His titled worth my Jasper should reveal;

Then, as in natal splendor, should be brought

275

The chequered vest (l) by learned fingers wrought;

While

(g) "After these twenty-four banners upon which are painted *the signs of the zodiac*; and fifty six other banners, on which are represented different *clusters of stars*, according to their arrangement in the heavens." Gros. v. 2. p. 331.

(h) "The southern gate of the palace is never opened *but for the Emperor himself*." Du Halde Hist. v. 2. p. 24. English ed. 8vo.

(i) "There is a causeway paved *with white marble*, and none *but the Emperor* may walk *in this path*." Du Halde v. 2. p. 26.

(k) "The patents and imperial acts are all sealed with the Emperor's own seal, which is *a fine Jasper*, near eight inches square, and is taken from the mountain *Yn yu Chan*, that is, *the mountain of the agate seal*." Du Halde v. 2. p. 19.

(l) "The *Literati* among the Mandarins pay a peculiar honour to a good Governor of a province. They cause a dress to be made for him of small pieces of satin, red, blue, green, yellow, &c. *His birth-day* is chosen as the proper time for presenting him with it. He at first refuses it; but at last *yields to the intreaties of the literati*. They then make him put on *this chequered garment*, the different colours of which are supposed to represent all the nations that wear different dresses, and to inform the Mandarin that he is *worthy of ruling them all*." Grosier, v. 2. p. 340.—N.B. This is a kind of imperial anticipation of that chequered Chancellor's robe with which the *Literati* of Cambridge

While with flow-pacing steps in gorgeous rows
 The solemn pomp my sons of science (m) close;
 Their heads aloft my elephants should tofs,
 Morton cry, *Morgu*; and Sir Clement, *Bofs*; (n) 280
 The full Tartarian chorus founding far,
 Hail, MINISTER OF PEACE—BUT NOT OF WAR! (o)
 Ah

bridge will one day invest Mr. Pitt, IF he should continue to be the Minister;
 IF NOT, those good men will not be at a loss where to discover TRANSCENDENT
 MERIT.

Note communicated (sdegnofamente altiero) by L-rd Th-rl-w.

(m) "The grand cavalcade is closed by two thousand Mandarins of Letters."
 Grof. v. 2. p. 332.

(n) *Morton and Sir Clement*.—I suppose the Emperor means two officers of
 high ceremony in his palace, whom out of compliment he names after the EARL
 of MORTON, Chamberlain to the Queen, and *Sir Clement Cottrell*, Master of
 the Ceremonies, of whom he cannot but have heard. As to the words they are
 to pronounce before Mr. Pitt, Mr. Bell informs us of their meaning: "The
 "Master of the Ceremonies (he says) stood by and delivered his orders in the
 "Tartar language by pronouncing the words *Morgu* and *Bofs*, the first meaning
 "to bow, and the second to stand; two words which I shall not easily forget."
 Bell's Travels 8vo v. 2. p. 9.—These emphatic words *Morgu* and *Bofs* should
 be pronounced by the Sp-ker and Mr. Dundas whenever Mr. Pitt makes his
 triumphal (I mean his daily) entry into the House of Commons and at all his
 levees.

Note communicated by G-rge R-fe Esq. M.P. Sec-ry to the Tr-ry.

(o) Our latest posterity, while they confess with us the awful and terrible ne-
 cessity of the war with the Republic of France, (which I think might now be
 terminated) will lament and deprecate, with the most marked reprobation, THE
 WHOLE CONDUCT of it, and the impotent, fluctuating measures, without a plan
 or the appearance of a system, which have been adopted by the M-n-ster or
 M-n-sters; and I fear, with groans which cannot be uttered; or as the great
 Apostle strongly calls them, Στεναγμοι Αλαλητοι.

Note communicated (with great concern) by the Rt. R. R-d W—n, B-sh-p of L-nd-ff.

Ah me! too fondly does my fancy dream:
 PITT hears not; and would slight the imperial theme,
 Though all my wealth Macartney's voice should speak, 285
 Or learn'd Sir George (o) in chinese or in greek,
 Or CHET-QUA's (p) self, admir'd by beau and belle,
 CHET-QUA, whom all the world knew passing well;

I

Ne'er

(o) In Mr. Boswell's life of Dr. Johnson, there is a very complimentary letter from Dr. J. to SIR GEORGE STAUNTON, (the late Secretary of Embassy to the E. of China) when he practised as a physician in the island of *Gaudaloupe*, which no doubt the Emperor has seen. It is dated June 1, 1762. "Dear Sir, I cannot but regret, that a man of your qualifications should find it necessary to seek an establishment in *Gaudaloupe*, which if a peace should restore to the French, I shall think it some alleviation of the loss, that it must likewise restore Dr. Staunton to the English." Life of Dr. J. vol. 1. p. 199. ed. 4to.—It rarely happens that any single man should be considered as an *Equivalent for an Island*; but I most fervently wish that we were provided with a few more *Equivalents for Islands*, like SIR GEORGE, or for any other colonies or settlements we may lose in the present dreadful war with the French Republic.

Note communicated by R. B. Sh-r-d-n Esq. M.P. with great pleasantry laughing and scattering his nuts. Courage, Sir Peter! "When an old man, &c. &c. &c.

Car deja le notaire a, d'un stile enérgique

GRIFFONNE' DE SON JOUG L'INSTRUMENT AUTHENTIQUE:

Gardons de le troubler: sa science, je croi,

Aura pour s'occuper ce jour plus d'un emploi.

Boileau.

(p) *Chet-qua* was a Chinese who visited England many years ago, and was an intimate friend of Sir William Chambers. He afterwards returned to China. As Sir William's friend seems to have been a pleasant fellow, and as the knight's account of him is very pleasant too, I shall transcribe a part of it. "All the world" (says Sir William) *knew CHET-QUA*; and how he was born at Quang-Chew-
 "Fu:

Ne'er shall my eyes behold in Tartar gown
The chosen Minister of England's crown. 290

I hail thy favour'd Island, that can boast
Fostered by THEE those arts which Athens lost:
Apelles in thy Reynolds shall revive,
And in a Bacon great Lyfippus live:

Thine too the poet's care; nor Cowper's strain, (q) 295
Nor Scotland's Doric Minstrel founds in vain;
But chief that care shall Johnson's virtue prove,
Led by the day-star beaming from above.

A nation's taste to rouse and to refine,
Handel by THEE was raised to strength divine; (r) 300
The monumental marble breathed: from high
His wondering spirit stoop'd, and own'd the harmony.

Such

"Fu; also how he was bred a face-maker, and had three wives, *two of whom he cared very much and the third but seldom*, for she was a virago and had large feet. He dressed well; wore nine whiskers and four long nails, with silk boots and callico breeches; equalling therein the prime Macaronis and *scavoir-vivres* not only of Quang-chew, but also of Shum-tien-fu. *He played divinely on the bagpipe and made excellent remarks*; was fond of smoking, and was then always *vastly pleasant and very communicative*." See Sir William Chambers's Discourse annexed to his Dissertation on Oriental Gardening. 2d. edit. 1772, page 115.

(q) See the note on the first line of the Imperial Epistle.

(r) The Emperor alludes to the grand musical Performances in Westminster Abbey in commemoration of Handel, in 1784, &c. They are recorded very properly on a tablet on the monument of Handel.

Such the instruction, such the grace, secur'd
By balanc'd rights, and policy matur'd.

While I, reclin'd on Camufathkin down, 305
Careless forget the labours of my crown;
Or chance some playful Vice-roy's doom deplore,
Hurled by dread Venus (s) to the fated shore;
For graveſt Mandarins in hours of joy
Here oft with tittering pleaſure-miſſes toy, 310
Charter'd unqueſtion'd libertines of love,
Heirs in expectance of the myrtle grove,
With them in lunar halls (t) and odorous bow'rs,
Voluptuous, ſhun the blaze of ſultry hours,
Skill'd with light ſpells of wantonneſs to chaſe 315
The murky *Man-chew* (v) from the enchanted ſpace:

For

(s) The *Syphilis* rages in China among perſons of the higheſt diſtinction, as in Europe. The phyſician and ſurgeon to Lord Macartney's Embaſſy relieved many of the Viceroy's, and Mandarins, *from their embarraſſments* at Pekin, Canton, and other places.

Note communicated by Sir G-ge B-k-r Bart. Phyſician to the K.

(t) *Myau-Ting*, the *Halls of the Moon*, or beautiful vaulted ſaloons, the concave of which is ornamented with ſtars and painted to repreſent a nocturnal ſky, where the Chineſe Princes retire with their favourite ladies in the heat of the ſummer days, "as often as they are diſpoſed to ſee them and be particular," as Sir William Chambers happily expreſſes it. Diſſertat. as above p. 32.

Note communicated (affettuoso con brio) by L-rd W-ll-m G-r-d-n.

(v) *Man-chew* is the name of the genius of ſorrow, among the Chineſe.

For them I frame, whom trifles best may please,
 A smile of softness or a sonnet's ease;
 Not as for THEE, with more than Theban fire,
 Sustain the weight of my imperial lyre. (u) 320

THEE last I trace with reverence, and survey
 The awful wonders of thy various day;
 Thy nation's darling still! though Scotland's star
 Shed brief malignant heat and scorch'd afar,
 Till proudly rising on the vantage ground 325

GREAT CHATHAM stood and shook the realms around:
 Prophet of future fate! his potent word
 Thy people o'er the vast Atlantic heard,
 And as the winds his voice ill-omen'd bore,
 Methought the sceptre sunk—to rise no more. 330

Close we that scene: for other scenes are near;
 Darknefs, and discontent, distrust, and fear,

And

(u) I am happy to say, that I have been favoured with scarce any notes on the remaining part of the Emperor's poem, and I have admitted *none* in the course of it but from a respect to the persons who honoured me with their communications, or from the necessity of illustrating a subject rather new in this country, as I believe. I rejoice that I have no more notes, as I desire the reader's unbroken attention from this verse to the close of the Imperial Epistle, and wish the whole may be read and felt by the same spirit and the same love of England and its constitution, by which the sentiments and the poetry appear to have been dictated.

And brooding policy in novel forms
 Calls o'er the deep of empire clouds and storms.
 And wild those storms would rend Britannia's field, 335
 Should patriot bands the rod of faction wield,
 While law, religion, property they seize,
 And senates tremble at their own decrees.
 Sweeping with REFORMATION's iron sway,
 They'd crush each hand that scrupled to obey, 340
 From splendor's robe each proud distinction wipe,
 And place a barren bauble in thy gripe:
 Then mitred fathers, and the ermin'd peer,
 And ancestry, and all to honour dear,
 The fond well-earn'd rewards of ancient worth, 345
 All, spirits disembodied, leave the earth:
 These are state-blots which, in their dread intent,
 Should be ras'd out IN THEIR FIRST PARLIAMENT.
 For each empiric, quacks of state or church,
 Now hate all truth but truths of grand research; 350
 Through life themselves, their souls, their God they mock,
 And sneering, offer the Socratic cock; (w)

K

They

(w) The Emperor seems to allude to men who resemble the Gallios, the Leos,
 the Cardinals Richlieu, Mazarin, and Du Bois, the Vergennes, the Gregoires,
 the Sieyès, the *Citizens* H-rne T-ke, Th-llw-ll, and such beings, and in
 some

They round their phrase with studied nothings, call
 Sophistic pomp, and meaner minds appall,
 Then unawares the strong conclusion draw,
 The master of the Prince is master of the Law.

355

Nor THOU, in fancied strength too safely wise,
 Their base-born dark original despise.
 Whence draws the Sun dire vapour? whence conspire
 The thundrous tempest and the lightning's fire?
 From lake, and lazy pool, and weeds obscene,
 The abode of putrid pestilence unclean,
 The Elemental Fury from afar
 Collects and scatters wide æthereal war,
 Ranging without confine, without control;
 E'en heav'n's own firmament oft seems to roll,
 And from the fated momentaneous shock
 Eternal impress marks the riven rock;
 The arch of majesty, the temple's dome,
 The pillar'd hall, the peasant's low-roof'd home,
 Alike in undistinguish'd ruin fall,
 And shapeless desolation equals all.

360

365

370

Through

some respects to such men as the M--, the H—, &c. and all mere state-divines,
 who live on,

Naturâ volvente vices et lucis et anni,

Atque IDEO intrepidi quæcunque altaria tangunt.

*Note communicated (with great fervour, and worthy of his character) by W-m
 W-llb-rt-rce Esq. M.P.*

Through EUROPE'S bounds, 'tis her devoted age,
 Fires from within and central thunders rage.
 On Gallia's shores I mark the unhallow'd pow'r, 375
 Her godless regents feel the madd'ning hour,
 Dread architects of ruin and of crime,
 In revolution's permanence sublime,
 And cruel nonsense! o'er th' astonish'd world:
 The flag of dire EQUALITY unfurl'd, 380
 Drizzling with blood of millions streams in air,
 The scroll, FRATERNAL FREEDOM, DEATH, DESPAIR!
 They pass: nor Rhine nor Rubicon they know:
 Torrents may roar or tranquil streams may flow,
 In unappall'd protrusion on they burst, 385
 All nations cursing, by all nations curst.
 Lo, Belgium yields to unresisted fate;
Within her ministers of terror wait:
 Nature with rod petrific smites the land,
 And binds the floods in adamant band, 390
 Till Gallia's chief in right of William sways,
 And Freedom, once with life-drops bought, obeys.
 See where dismember'd trembling Spain resigns
 Golconda's radiance and Potofi's mines:
 The pillars of THE ETERNAL CITY bow, 395
 And the tiara from the Pontiff's brow.

Drops

Drops to the dust: no more in Peter's fane
 The consistorial brotherhood shall reign:
 Yet see; the turban nods by factions torn;
 A length'ning, sad, and fullen sound is borne 400
 Around Sophia's hallow'd conscious walls,
 Muttering the doom denounc'd: her crescent falls:
 Still view, in western (x) climes Death's palest horse
 With pestilence and slaughter marks his course,
 While dusky tribes, with more than maniac rage 405
 Rending their brazen bonds, in war engage;
 For France still burns to make with dire intent
 HELL AND THIS WORLD ONE REALM, ONE CONTINENT!(y)
 Yet once attend, great BRUNSWICK; nor in vain
 Hear thy imperial Brother's closing strain. 410
 THEE from thy people may no thought divide,
 The statesman's rashness or Reformer's pride;
 Reason and her fond visions still distrust;
 What, but experience, makes a kingdom just?
 Fix'd on her ancient base let England rest; 415
 And public danger arm the public breast;
 On British sense depend. On foreign fame
 To proud Versailles THE FATAL STRANGER (z) came,

New

(x) Alluding to all the horrors suffered and now suffering in the West-India Islands in the present war.

(y) Milt. P. L. b. 10. l. 391.

(z) Neckar.

New laws, new policy, new truth to tell,
And by new maxims the vast fabric fell. 420

Oh, should thy nation flight her just alarms,
Nor Gallic TRUTHS dread more than Gallic arms,
Thy diadem must fade; the Tyrian die
Sink in the scarlet of democracy;

All dignities of brighter times will fail; 425

No wisdom o'er her midnight lamp grow pale,
But knowledge, fancy, genius, all retire,
And faint and death-struck learning will expire:
Look round the land, there nothing shall be found
But swords to guard and ploughs to till the ground. 430

Though *now* awhile beneath the afflictive rod
SUPERNAL POWER may bid thy Albion nod,
Humbled in due prostration may she bend,
And her far-fam'd beneficence extend:

Then, all her ancient energies erect, 435
Strength from herself and from her God expect,
And on her rocky ramparts bold, alone
Maintain HER laws and vindicate THY throne.

L

FINIS.

